

using a control from the first control set to govern an aspect of use of the first protected information while the first protected information is contained within the first secure container;

creating a second secure container having associated a second control set for governing an aspect of use of protected information contained within the second secure container;

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incorporating a first portion of the first protected information in the second secure container, the first portion made up of some or all of the first protected information;

storing identification information at least in part identifying the first portion, the storing being governed at least in part by a control from the first control set; and

transmitting the identification information to a second site, the transmission being governed at least in part by a control from the first control set.

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91. The method of Claim 91, in which the first secure container further contains a third secure container having associated a third control set, the third secure container containing the first protected information and

the step of incorporating the first portion in the second secure container includes copying or removing the first portion from the third secure container.

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92. The method of Claim 91, in which the step of creating a second secure container includes:

creating the second control set by incorporating at least one control from the first control set.

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93. The method of Claim 93, in which the step of incorporating at least one control from the first control set is accomplished in a secure manner.

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94. The method of Claim 92, in which the step of creating a second secure container includes:

creating the second control set by incorporating at least one control from the third control set.

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95. The method of Claim 95, in which the step of incorporating at least one control from the third control set is accomplished in a secure manner.

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96. The method of Claim 92, in which the step of creating a second secure container includes:

creating the second control set by incorporating at least one control not found in the first control set or the third control set.

98. The method of Claim 97, in which the step of incorporating at least one control not found in the first control set or the third control set is accomplished in a secure manner.

99. The method of Claim 91, in which the step of creating a second secure container is governed at least in part by at least one control contained within the first control set.

100. The method of Claim 92, in which the step of creating a second secure container is governed at least in part by at least one control contained within the third control set.

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101. The method of Claim 92 in which the step of creating a second secure container is governed at least in part by at least one control not contained within the first control set or the third control set.

102. The method of Claim 92, further comprising:

copying or transferring the second secure container from the first site to a third site located remotely from the first site.

103. The method of Claim 102, in which the first site is associated with a content distributor.

104. The method of Claim 103, in which the third site is associated with a user of content.

105. The method of Claim 104 further comprising the following step:
the user directly or indirectly initiating communication with the first site.

106. The method of Claim 104, in which the second control set includes one or more controls at least in part governing the use by the user of at least a portion of the first portion of the first protected information.

107. The method of Claim 104, in which the second control set includes one or more controls at least in part governing the price to be paid by the user for use of at least a portion of the first portion of the first protected information.

108. The method of Claim 104, in which the second control set includes one or more controls at least in part governing or specifying an auditing method to be used in connection with use by the user of at least a portion of the first portion of the first protected information.

109. The method of Claim 108, wherein at least some auditing performed in accordance with the auditing method is performed at the third site.

110. The method of Claim 108, in which the second control set includes one or more controls at least in part specifying one or more allowed clearinghouses to receive payment information from the user for use of at least a portion of the first portion of the first protected information.

111. The method of Claim 108, in which the second control set includes one or more controls at least in part specifying information to be provided by the user in return for use of at least a portion of the first portion of the first protected information.

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112. The method of Claim 111, further comprising the step of:
encrypting at least a portion of the information to be provided by the user.

113. The method of Claim 102, further comprising:

establishing a level of compensation required for at least one of (a) the copying or transferring step, or (b) at least one aspect of use at the third site of at least a portion of the first portion of the first protected information, and

calling a budget method to establish whether one or more budgets associated with the user are sufficient to satisfy the required compensation.

114. The method of Claim 113, further comprising:
blocking the copying or transferring step and/or the at least one aspect of use if the budget method establishes that the one or more budgets associated with the user are not sufficient to satisfy the required compensation.

115. The method of Claim 113, in which the budget method is governed at least in part by one or more controls contained in the first control set.

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116. The method of Claim 113, in which the budget method is governed at least in part by one or more controls contained in the third control set.

117. The method of Claim 116, in which the budget method is also governed at least in part by one or more controls contained in the first control set.

118. The method of Claim 92, in which the creation of the second secure container further comprises using a template which specifies one or more of the controls contained in the second control set.

119. The method of Claim 92, in which the creation of the second secure container further comprises using a template which specifies one or more attributes of the second secure container.

120. The method of Claim 102, in which the creation of the second secure container further comprises using a template which specifies one or more of the controls contained in the second control set.

121. An electronic appliance located at a first site comprising:
a memory storing a first secure container having associated a first rule set and containing first protected information; and
a secure processing unit comprising

means for creating a second secure container having associated a third rule set, the means further comprising means for copying or removing a first rule from the first rule set, and means for incorporating the first rule in the second rule set;

means by which a rule from the first rule set governs, at least in part, the means for creating a second secure container;

means for copying or removing at least a first portion of the first protected information from the first secure container;

means for copying or transferring the first portion of the first protected information from the first secure container to the second secure container,

the means for copying or transferring operating at least in part under the control of the first rule set;

memory means for storing identification information at least in part identifying the first portion of the first protected information; and

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telecommunications means for communicating the identification information to a second site located remotely from the first site.

122. An electronic appliance of Claim 121, further comprising means by which a rule from the first or second rule set at least in part governs use of the telecommunications means communicating identification information to the second site.

123. A data processing arrangement comprising:
a first secure container containing first protected information and having associated a first rule set governing use of the first protected information;
means for creating and storing a second secure container having associated a second rule set; and
means for copying or transferring at least a portion of the first protected information and a third rule set governing use of the portion of the first protected information to the second secure container, the means for copying or transferring including
means for storing identification information relating to the copied or transferred first protected information portion, and

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means for communicating the stored identification information to a remote site.

124. The data processing arrangement of Claim 123, further comprising:

means for applying a rule from the first rule set to at least in part govern the means for storing identification information and the means for communicating.

125. The data processing arrangement of Claim 124, further comprising:

means for applying a rule from the second rule set to at least in part govern the means for storing identification information and the means for communicating.

126. The data processing arrangement of Claim 124, in which the second rule set includes a rule from the first rule set.

127. A method comprising the steps of

creating a first secure container having associated a first rule set and containing first protected information;

storing the first secure container in a first memory;

creating a second secure container comprising a second rule set;

storing the second secure container in a second memory;

copying or transferring at least a first portion of the first protected information to the second secure container, the copying or transferring step being at least in part governed by a first rule from the first rule set;

in compliance with the first rule, storing information at least in part identifying the first portion; and

in compliance with the first rule, communicating at least a portion of the identification information to a remote site.

128. The method of Claim 127, wherein the steps of creating the second secure container, and copying the first portion of the first protected information, are securely performed by one or more protected processing environments.

129. The method of Claim 127, in which the first portion of the first protected information consists of the entirety of the first protected information.

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130. The method of Claim 127, in which the first portion of the first protected information consists of less than the entirety of the first protected information.

131. The method of Claim 127, in which

the first memory is located at a first site,

the second memory is located at a second site remote from the first site, and

the step of copying or transferring the first portion of the first protected information to the second secure container further comprises copying or transferring the first protected information from the first site to the second site.

132. The method of Claim 127, in which the first memory and the second memory are located at the same site.

133. The method of Claim 132, in which the first memory comprises first addressable memory locations, and the second memory comprises second addressable memory locations in the same address space as the first addressable memory locations.

134. The method of Claim 133, in which the first addressable memory locations and the second addressable memory locations are located within the same physical memory device.

135. The method of Claim 127, in which the step of copying or transferring the first portion of the first protected information from the first secure container to the second secure container further comprises storing a third secure container in the second secure container.

136. The method of Claim 127, further comprising:
creating a third rule set.

137. The method of Claim 136, further comprising:

using the third rule set to govern at least one aspect of use of the copied first portion of the first protected information.

138. A method for performing the following steps within a virtual distribution environment comprising one or more electronic appliances and a first secure container, the first secure container having associated a first control set and containing first protected information, the method comprising:

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using a control from the first control set to govern an aspect of use of the first protected information while the first protected information is contained within the first secure container;

creating a second secure container having associated a second control set for governing an aspect of use of protected information contained within the second secure container;

incorporating a first portion of the first protected information in the second secure container, the first portion made up of some or all of the first protected information;

using a control to govern an aspect of use of the first portion of the first protected information while the first portion is contained within the second secure container; and

in compliance with a control, reporting information relating to the identification of the first portion of the first protected information to a remote site.

139. An electronic appliance comprising:

a memory storing a first secure container having associated a first rule set and containing first protected information; and

a secure processing unit comprising
means for creating a second secure container having
associated a second rule set, the means for creating further
comprising
means for copying or removing a first rule from the
first rule set, and
means for incorporating the first rule in the second
rule set;

means by which a rule from the first rule set governs, at least
in part, the means for creating the second secure container;

means for extracting at least a first portion of the first
protected information from the first secure container;

means for copying or transferring the first portion of the first
protected information from the first secure container to the
second secure container,
the means for copying or transferring operating at
least in part under the control of the first rule set or
the second rule set; and